हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के स्थान पर हिन्दी समाचारों के वितरण का काम सौंपा गया था, द्वारा हिन्दी के समाचार का वितरण किए जाने के बारे में नवीनतम स्थिति क्या है ;

(ख) सरकार ने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या सहायता दी है; और

(ग) हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के कितने कर्मचारियों को पुन: रोजगार दे दिया गया है और कितने कर्मचारियों को अभी रोजगार दिया जाना है ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मन्त्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री वी० एन० गाडगिल) : (क) और (ख) जबकि यू०एन०आई० की "यूनीवार्ता" अपने ग्राहकों को मई, 1982 से हिन्दी में सेवा उपलब्ध कर रही है, पी० टी० आई० में इसके समकक्ष "भाषा" जो, कुछ ही महीने पहले स्थापित हुआ है, ने भी हिन्दी में इसी प्रकार की सेवा शुरू की है। दोनों एजेंसियों ने ये सेवायें अपनी पहल पर शुरू की है और सरकार ने इस प्रयोजन के लिए उन्हें कोई आर्थिक सहायता नहीं दी है।

(ग) पी०टी०आई० और यू०एन० आई० से प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार, प्रत्येक एजेंसी ने अब तक हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती के 52-52 भूतपूर्व कर्मचारियों को नियुक्त किया है। समाचार भारती और हिन्दुस्तान समाचार के कुल कर्मचारियों की संख्या लगभग 280 बतायी गयी है।

Additional contribution for drought relief

1087. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what is the additional Central contribution for drought relief as it result of Prime Minister's recent visites to affected States, including Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): The Prime Minister visited some drought affected areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka and Maharashtra during the year 1986. These States faced by continuous drought situation, sought additional Central assistance to continue the drought relief operations in the year 1986-87. A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 30.05 crores was approved for Government of Karnataka in 1985-86 for drought relief for utilisation in the year 1986-87. On receipt of request from Government of Karnataka additional ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 7.50 crores has been approved for drought relief in 1986-87. Besides, sanction of additional Central assistance, of Rs. 12.45 crores to Government of Karnataka is under consideration. In case of Gujarat a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 50.65 crores was approved in 1985-86 for utilization in 1986-87. Further a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 35.00 crores has been approved in the year 1986-87 to the Government of Gujarat for the State's action Plan for solving drinking water problem. On the basis of report of the Central Team and recommendations of High Level Committee on Relief (HLCR), an additional amount of Rs. 29.97 crores has been approved for Gujarat in the year 1986-87. Thus, a total ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 115.62 crores has been approved for the Government of Gujarat for utilisation in the year 1986-87. On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the HLCR, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 40.05 crores has been approved for the Government of Andhra Pradesh for utilisation during the year 1986-87. In the case of Maharashtra, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 21.68 crores was approved in 1985-86

for utilisation in 1986-87. On receipt of memorandum from the State Government, a Central Team visited the State from 11th to 14th May, 1986 for assessing the requirement of additional Central assistance for drought relief. Further Central assistance to the Government of Maharashtra will be sanctioned shortly, on the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief.

Stoppage of operations of deep sea fishing vessels

1088. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some Indian parties, who had acquired deep sea fishing vessels under the Export-oriented scheme, were stopped from operating their vessels during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have received any representations in this regard and if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) what was the period for which Government stopped the operations of the said vessels and what were the consequences of such stoppage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Operation of deep sea vessels imported by two companies under ICC °/\ expert oriented scheme was stopped in February/March, 1986 as they failed to obtain Government's approval on the specifications of the vessels to be imported.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The representation was received by the Government. The period of stoppage was 20 days. However, as a result of the action taken by the Government, the companies duly submitted proposals with specifications of the vessels to the Government for clearance of impor

Enhancement of licence fee by NDMC

1089. SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Will the Minister of URBAN DE VELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Committee has received any representation against the enhancement of 30 per cent in the licence fee of certain shops of nine NDMC markets during the last 3 years ; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vide its Resolution No. 127 dated 18-6-85, the Ccrrmittee has decided to reduce the enhancement from 30 percent to 15 percent. No enhancement in licerxe fee, however, has been made where shops were allotted prior to 1969 or as rehabilitation measure.

Crop Insurance Scheme

1090. SHRI PRAMCD MAHAJA> : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the r^n-es of ike districts in variciis States to which Crop Insursrce Scheme has been exten ded and the additional ones likely to be covered in 1986-87;

(b) whether farmers' animals are also covered by the scheme, if not, the reasons therefor; and